

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
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R 180707Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3656  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
ALL NATO CAPITALS  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 03531

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC  
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 17, 1977: AGENDA  
ITEM II, STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY  
COMMITTEE  
IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE DPC IN MINISTERIAL SESSION ON  
MAY 17 MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GENERAL ZEINER-  
GUNDERSEN STRESSED WHAT HE TERMED THE DUAL OBJECTIVES OF  
NATO: DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE. CITING THE ADVERSE TRENDS  
IN THE MILITARY BALANCE, HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE NEED  
FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS CONTINUING PRESENT  
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE INTEROPERABILITY, STANDARDIZATION AND  
COST EFFECTIVENESS. FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS.  
BEGIN TEXT:

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR YOUR KIND WORDS OF WELCOME. I  
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AM PROUD AS WELL AS HUMBLE ABOUT MY APPOINTMENT AS CHAIR-  
MAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO  
UPHOLD THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF MY DISTINGUISHED  
PREDECESSOR.

I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU DO NOT EXPECT ME TO DWELL AT THIS  
TIME ON DETAILS OF WORK. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD

BE APPROPRIATE IF I WERE TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF THE WAY I SEE THINGS IN NATO TODAY, HAVING HAD FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE ON THE MC/CS AS A CDS.

OUR PRIME OBJECT IS DETERRENCE, OUR SECOND IS DEFENCE. BUT WE CAN ONLY DETER AS LONG AS THE OTHER SIDE REALIZES THAT WE CAN DEFEND.

THE PROVISION OF A CREDIBLE DETERRENT TO POSSIBLE SOVIET AGGRESSION IN EUROPE WAS, IS AND WILL ALWAYS BE AN EXCITING CHALLENGE. SO FAR WE HAVE MET IT SUCCESSFULLY.

THE PROBLEMS AT HAND TODAY APPEAR TO BE MORE NUMEROUS AND COMPLEX THAN THEY WERE A FEW YEARS AGO. THE TREND IN THE MILITARY BALANCE HAS NOT BEEN IN OUR FAVOUR AS OF LATE, A FACT THAT HAS MORE BEARING ON THE FUTURE THAN ON THE PRESENT.

NATO REMAINS FACED WITH A VERY REAL AND GROWING MILITARY THREAT. THE USSR CLEARLY PERCEIVES ITS MILITARY POSTURE AS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF ITS STATUS AS A WORLD POWER, AND AS A KEY FACTOR IN ITS ABILITY TO PROMOTE ITS POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. THEY CONTINUE TO AUGMENT THEIR CAPABILITIES THROUGH ANNUAL DEFENCE EXPENDITURES WELL BEYOND WHAT THEY COULD POSSIBLY NEED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES ONLY. I SHALL NOT QUOTE FIGURES AS THEY ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE WHICH IS ON YOUR AGENDA.

TO MEET THIS THREAT WE MUST, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO STRIVE  
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FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY, AS WELL AS FOR STANDARDIZATION, AND ABOVE ALL ALWAYS TO BE COST-EFFECTIVE. WE MUST ALSO STRIVE FOR IMPROVED LOGISTICS, SO EASY TO FORGET. WE MUST KEEP THE HIGHEST READINESS AND COMBAT-EFFECTIVENESS OUR RESOURCES WILL ALLOW. THERE IS A LIMIT, HOWEVER, TO WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THESE MEANS, WHICH REALLY ARE TOOLS OF SECOND MAGNITUDE. IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE CURRENT AND FUTURE MILITARY IMBALANCE, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED. IT IS THE RESOURCES THAT ARE THE TOOLS OF THE PRIME MAGNITUDE.

THE DECISIONS IN THIS LATTER RESPECT TAKEN SOME YEARS BACK MADE IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE WHAT DETERRENT WE HAVE OF TODAY. THE DECISIONS OF A FEW YEARS BACK MAKE THE OUTLOOK BLEAK REGARDING THE NEAR FUTURE. THE DECISIONS OF TODAY MAY MAKE THE OUTLOOK LESS BLEAK IN THE SHORT RUN AND WILL MAKE IT BETTER IN THE LONGER RUN, PROVIDED THEY ARE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ON RESOURCES. THESE DECISIONS WILL ALSO INFLUENCE OUR SUCCESSORS AND THEIR SUCCESSORS. I HOPE THESE MEN

WILL, IN THEIR TIME, BE HAPPY WITH US ALL.

WE MUST ALSO STRIVE FOR DETENTE, BUT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO COUNT ON DETENTE ALONE TO PROVIDE RELIEF. A CREDIBLE MILITARY CAPABILITY IS THE PREREQUISITE FOR PROGRESS IN DETENTE. ON THIS BASIS I BELIEVE NATO SHOULD CONTINUE SEEKING DETENTE. BUT MAY I POINT TO THE SEEMING CONTRADICTION IN THE USSR TALK OF DETENTE AND THE TREND IN THEIR BUILD-UP OF FORCES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 03531

AND MAY I IN THIS CONNECTION, HOPEFULLY NOT MISUNDERSTOOD, REMIND YOU OF A QUOTATION BY THE AMERICAN AUTHOR ON HISTORY, HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON:

"BUT WHEN THE TSAR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THREE MILLION HORSEGUARDS, FOOTGUARDS, LIFE-GUARDS AND COSSACKS, BEGINS TO TALK SWEETLY OF BROTHERLY LOVE, IT IS TIME FOR DECENT PEOPLE TO LOOK TO THEIR GUNS."

OUR CHILDREN SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE SECURITY OF THE PAST TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS. THIS MEANS WE WILL HAVE TO INCREASE OUR EFFORTS.

I AM CONFIDENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE  
ALLIANCE WILL RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE DAY.

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THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

END TEXT.BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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